

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 2, 9-16, 27-34, 45-52 and 55 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-8, 17-26, 35-44, and 53-54 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

Claims 3-8, 18-20, 24-26 and 36-44 have been amended solely to have the claims better conform to the requirements of U.S. practice. None of these amendments is intended to narrow the scope of any of these claims, and no new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the Office Action, claim 3 was objected to because of informalities and has been amended to correct same.

Turning now to the art rejections, claims 1, 3-8, 17-26, 35-44, and 53-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shvodian (U.S. Patent No. 7,110,380). Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the relied on sections of Shvodian.

Independent claims 1, 17, 35, and 53 have each been amended to more clearly show the differences between the claimed features and the relied on art. No new matter has been added by these changes.

As amended herein, claim 1 recites:

a network including a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses that operate in an autonomous distributed manner without any of the wireless communication apparatuses being a specific controlling station[.]

(Emphasis added.) The relied on sections of Shvodian neither disclose nor suggest a network including a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses that operate in an autonomous distributed manner. Moreover, the relied on sections of Shvodian neither disclose nor suggest a network including a plurality of wireless communication apparatuses that operate in

an autonomous distributed manner without any of the wireless communication apparatuses being a specific controlling station.

Rather, such sections of Shvodian are only concerned with networks in which a coordinator or controller issues a beacon that provides time slot assignments for the other users of that network. (See, e.g., Figs.6 and 15, Abstract 11.3-7, col.4 11.29-32, and col.6 11.34-36.) These sections are not at all concerned with a network in which wireless communication apparatuses operate in an autonomous distributed manner and are not at all concerned with a network in which wireless communication apparatuses operate in an autonomous distributed manner without any of the wireless communication apparatuses being a specific controlling station. Hence, the relied on sections of Shvodian neither disclose nor suggest the features set forth in the above excerpt of claim 1.

It follows, for at least the above reasons, that the relied on sections of Shvodian do not disclose or suggest the combination defined in claim 1 and therefore do not anticipate the claim.

Independent claims 17, 35, and 53 each call for features similar to those set out in the above excerpt of claim 1. Each of these claims is therefore patentably distinguishable over the relied on sections of Shvodian for at least the reasons set out above regarding claim 1.

Claims 3-8 depend from claim 1, claims 18--26 depend from claim 17, claims 36-44 depend from claim 35, and claim 54 depends from claim 53. Therefore, each of these claims is distinguishable over the relied on sections of Shvodian at least for the same reasons as its parent claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection and the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In view of the above, each of the presently pending

claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,
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